

INFORMATION PAPER  
December 2005

SUBJECT: Vision Readiness Screening and Classification (VRSC)

1. Purpose. Implement an Army-wide Vision Readiness Screening and Classification System that will assist commanders in ensuring Soldiers are both visually and optically ready to deploy.

2. Background.

a. Multiple studies reveal that a vast number of Soldiers are not visually or optically ready to deploy. A service member is visually ready when he/she has the visual acuity required for his/her mission, and is optically ready when he/she has the required military optical devices in accordance with the tri-service ophthalmic regulation, AR 40-63, NAVMEDCOMINST 6810.1, AFR 167-3 and service specific regulations/instructions.

b. In 1995 DoD Health Affairs chartered the Defense Vision Services Functional Process Improvement Work Group (DVS) to recommend a system to track and improve this readiness state. It developed an automated, 4-tiered classification system requiring an annual vision screening for each service member.

c. Vision Readiness is indicated during unit screenings, and during Soldier Readiness Processing IAW AR 600-8-101, "Personnel Processing (In-, Out-, Soldier Readiness, Mobilization and Deployment) dated 18 July 2003. This classification system will provide line commanders with a quantitative measure of their unit's vision readiness status. Additionally, it will also reduce surges to DOD Optical Fabrication and avoid the associated costs.

3. Status.

a. DoD Health Affairs supports the Vision Readiness Screening and Classification System.

a. DA, thru the Army Surgeon General's staff, coordinated with the Army G-1 and G-3; and the implementation policy was disseminated to all Army units via the **attached ALARACT message**.

c. The policy includes requirements for documentation using the Individual Vision Readiness Worksheet and the Unit Vision Readiness Spreadsheet, both found in the Medical Protection System (MEDPROS). The capability to fully document Vision Readiness status in MEDPROS is now complete.

4. Key points to note:

**h. Starting April 2006 units will be able to obtain reliable unit vision status reports; if soldiers have not been properly screened and entered into MEDPROS they will show as a class 4 and or NO GO for deployment.**

b. Unit CDRs will appoint unit screeners to screen the vision and eye wear of unit Soldiers annually. The screening will be done AT THE UNITS. The unit screener can be anyone,

not necessarily a medical person. Units should NOT send their Soldiers to the local optometry clinic to have their VRSC status checked, nor should units expect the SRP-sites to do all the screening for them. The annual screening will be done AT THE UNITS (**See attached VISION READINESS KIT**) with the results entered into MEDPROS by the unit which will then show the soldier as a GO for Vision Readiness and in turn a GO for deployment.

c. Screening procedures are simple, involving a quick vision check with both eyes open, and a check to verify if the soldier has all required eyewear. (**See attached VISION READINESS KIT**).

d. Only Soldiers who are determined to be "class 3" by screeners will be sent to the optometry clinic for exam or glasses ordering. Vision Class 3 (3V) Soldiers will make an appointment with the optometry clinic. Optical Class 3 (3O) Soldiers who are missing their required eyewear can report to the Optometry clinic, **without an appointment**, as a walk in (please call first) to order the appropriate eyewear needed. (See attached VISION READINESS KIT for more details)

e. Optometry will examine &/or order eyewear for class 3 Soldiers and update their Individual Vision Readiness in MEDPROS.

5. The following POCs will provide guidance on VRCS to screeners and MEDPROS users:

a. COL Foppiano, Chief, Optometry Services, USA MEDDAC, Ft Carson.  
Phone: 526-7450. [kenneth.foppiano@amedd.army.mil](mailto:kenneth.foppiano@amedd.army.mil)

b. CPT Rhees, Assistant Chief Optometry Services. Phone: 526-7450.  
[randall.rhees@amedd.army.mil](mailto:randall.rhees@amedd.army.mil)

c. CPT Popowski, Optometry Services. Phone: 526-7450.  
[leroy.popowski@amedd.army.mil](mailto:leroy.popowski@amedd.army.mil)

d. Sandra Linenberger, SRP Site Optometry (526-5592)  
[sandra.linenberger@amedd.army.mil](mailto:sandra.linenberger@amedd.army.mil)

d. SSG Battle, NCOIC, Optometry Services. Phone 526-6457  
[keisha.battle@amedd.army.mil](mailto:keisha.battle@amedd.army.mil)

e. Mike Ives, Optometry Clinic Supervisor. Phone 526-7450  
[michael.ives@amedd.army.mil](mailto:michael.ives@amedd.army.mil)

f. Tim Durbin, MEDPROS/MODS trainer and user expert Phone 524-4520.  
[timothy.durbin@cen.amedd.army.mil](mailto:timothy.durbin@cen.amedd.army.mil) Call or email to sign up for monthly classroom MEDPROS training.

g. For a soldier to make an appointment for an eye exam with Optometry they should call the appointment line at (265-5000).

# Vision Screening Kit

**(This includes nearly everything that a unit screener needs to screen vision readiness, for entry into MEDPROS, except a pen and clipboard.)**

## **PREPARATION for TESTING (Important!)**

1. Decide where and when your unit is going to do this, and who will do the testing. After weigh-in at the PT test, or a PAI, might be good. Use a space 20 feet long (hallway?) with decent lighting.
2. Have your unit commander tell everyone to bring their two pair of glasses and inserts (PMI) to the screening, and NOT to wear contacts.
3. Print this out on BEST quality so that the acuity charts are readable. Tape page 2 with the big letters on a wall. Mark off 20 feet from the letters, with tape on the floor.
4. Make enough copies of the recording form and referral form for your whole unit.
  - \* Each recording form will hold results for about 30 people.
  - \* If soldiers bring their glasses and inserts to the screening---referrals should be under 10% since at least 2/3 don't even wear glasses!

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The following tiny print samples are only needed for soldiers 45 or older.  
Since 20/40 or better is considered "fully medically ready, they only need to read the first line below.  
Let the soldier hold the page of fine print so it shakes less. Test at approximately 16" (between 1 & 2 feet is f

V H O Y E C N

***Class 2 (20/40) near print.*** Soldiers over 45 need to be able to read this, or be referred for reading glasses.

D V K S O N Y

***Class 1 (20/20) near print.*** This may be unreadable unless you have a good printer!

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(2006 Version)

**Optometry is your POC for training and questions.**

**Evans Army Community Hospital Optometry Clinic (526-7450)**

**SRP Site Optometry (526-5592)**

For **MEDPOS training** contact Tim Durbin, MEDPROS/MODS trainer and user expert

Phone 524-4520 timothy.durbin@cen.amedd.army.mil .

Call or email to sign up for monthly classroom MEDPROS training

**MAKE SURE THIS PRINTS OUT WELL** (nice and dark). Tape it up in a well-lighted spot, 20 feet from the soldier being tested. If lighting is not good, you may need to aim a reading lamp at it to make it more readable.

V N D Y C K O

**Class 1:** If the Soldier is able to correctly identify 4 of 7 letters above from 20 feet; guessing is encouraged.

O H C V Z D N

**Class 2:** If the Soldier can't read the 20/20 line above, have them try this larger line. If they can read 4 of these 7, write down **Class 2** (20/40).

**Class 3:** If the Soldier can't read either of those lines, write down **Class 3 (uncorrected---**without glasses). Ask if they have glasses; if so, retest with glasses.

If the soldier doesn't have 2 pair of glasses and inserts, or can't read either line with or without glasses,  
they will need to see Optometry (see sample referral form in this kit).

**SCREENING VISION** works best when one person is the tester and another person prepares soldiers for testing (sign-in sheet and formation of line)

- For large groups, test people who don't wear glasses first. It makes the line move faster, and makes recording easier.

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## SIX EASY STEPS

**1. As the soldier steps up to the 20 foot line, ask them if they have contact lenses in.** (If they have contacts but can't take them out, they're done---tell them they have to come back without contacts, and with their glasses and inserts---you can't screen them with contacts in.)

**2. Ask them to read the smallest line (20/20).** Tell them guessing is required. They DON'T need to cover an eye. If they get half (4 of 7) letters right, record class 1 on the form and tell them they're done.

**3.If they can't read 20/20, tell them to guess at the bigger 20/40 line.** If they get half right, they are class 2. Record it and tell them they are done. The Army considers them deployable without glasses. They can wear glasses if they want, but for the purposes of the Army screening, they aren't required to have them.

**4. If they can't read the 20/40 line, record class 3 under uncorrected distance. Ask if they have 2 pair of glasses and inserts.** If they don't, refer them to Optometry.

**5. For those who do wear and have two pair of glasses and inserts, check vision with glasses on.** Same as steps 2 and 3, except with glasses on, and record it in the second column (corrected). Most will see well with glasses on---class 1 (20/20) or class 2 (20/40). If they cannot see at least 20/40 they're Class 3 with correction; refer them to see Optometry.

**6. People gradually lose reading vision throughout life. For soldiers 45 or older, you must retest vision up close. Use the small print samples on the cover sheet of this kit.** This is done just like steps 2 through 4, except you let the soldier hold the print about 16 inches away. That's several inches further than the length of a sheet of paper (11 inches); exact distance is less important than the fact that they can read it! Record those near results in the next two "NEAR" columns on the recording form.

\*\* If they had to wear glasses to pass the distance vision, they need to use those same glasses for near testing. (Why? Some will say that they read **without** their glasses. And that's fine. But with the mask inserts, point out that they won't be able to do that ---take off their mask and inserts to read---in a chemical environment! If they can't read with their glasses on, they probably need a bifocal insert.)

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\* Your Optometry clinic is your POC for training or questions.

\* **If you can just do the easy cases (those who see well without glasses, and those who already have the glasses that they need), you should be able to achieve over 90% readiness.** That's a big help.

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**Visual Acuity Group**  
**(1, 2, or 3)**

[illegible]

## Instructions for Unit Vision Readiness Spreadsheet

**Visual Acuity Group-** VA will be recorded as group 1, 2, or 3; not all VA fields will be used for all soldier:

1= Visual acuity 20/20 or better

2= Visual acuity between 20/20 and 20/40

3= Visual acuity worse than 20/40

Uncor Distance=Uncorrected Distance VA group, Cor Dist=Corrected Distance VA group,

Uncor Near=Uncorrected Near VA group, Cor Near=Corrected Near VA group.

**Required Optical Devices** will be recorded as Y/N/NA

Y= optical device(s) are required and the soldier has them

N=optical device(s) are required but the soldier does not have them

NA= optical devices are not required

2 glasses= 2 pair of spectacles( military, frame of choice, or civilian) One pair may be Combat Eye Protection (CEP) Insert, military including frame of choice, or civilian. Second pair must be military, frame of choice or civilian.

PMI= Protective Mask Insert

**VRC=** Vision Readiness Class will be calculated automatically by MEDPROS when vision readiness data is entered. It can be recorded here manually or calculated from MEDPROS:

Class 1: Soldiers whose best corrected visual acuity is 20/20 or better for all required visual acuity screenings. They possess all required optical devices. No corrective action is required.

Class 2: Soldiers whose best corrected binocular visual acuity is worse than 20/20 but at least 20/40 in the poorest of their required visual acuity screenings. They possess all required optical devices. Class 2 also includes individuals possessing a waiver for binocular visual acuity worse than 20/40.

Class 3: Soldiers who are either not optically ready and/or not visually ready:

i. Class 3 O -Not optically ready - Soldiers whose best corrected binocular visual acuity is better than or equal to 20/40 for all required visual acuity screenings, but who do not possess all required optical devices. Optical devices are required.

ii. Class 3 V- Not visually ready- Soldiers whose unaided or corrected binocular visual acuity is worse than 20/40. They do not meet visual acuity standards. Comprehensive eye examination and optical devices are required.

Class 4: Soldiers who have not been screened within one year. Vision readiness screening is required.

FM DA WASHINGTON DC//DACS-ZD//090148Z Nov 04  
TO ALARACT  
INFO CJCS WASHINGTON DC//J4//  
BT  
UNCLAS ALARACT  
SUBJ: VISION READINESS AND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO ANNOUNCE THE VISION READINESS SCREENING AND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM. MEDICAL READINESS CAN GREATLY ENHANCE OVERALL SOLDIER READINESS.

2. THE VISION READINESS OF EACH SOLDIER WILL BE ASSESSED AT LEAST ANNUALLY, AND/OR WHENEVER SOLDIERS UNDERGO THE ARMY'S MANDATORY SOLDIER READINESS PROCESSING (SRP) IAW AR 600-8-101. THE FOLLOWING SYSTEM WILL BE USED:

A. CLASS 1: SOLDIERS WHOSE UNAIDED OR CORRECTED BINOCULAR VISUAL ACUITY IS 20/20 OR BETTER. THEY POSSESS ALL REQUIRED OPTICAL DEVICES. NO DEFICIENCIES.

B. CLASS 2: SOLDIERS WHOSE UNAIDED OR CORRECTED BINOCULAR VISUAL ACUITY IS WORSE THAN 20/20 BUT AT LEAST 20/40. THEY POSSESS ALL REQUIRED OPTICAL DEVICES. A COMPREHENSIVE EYE EXAMINATION IS RECOMMENDED. NOTE: CLASS 2 ALSO INCLUDES INDIVIDUALS POSSESSING A WAIVER FOR BINOCULAR VISUAL ACUITY WORSE THAN 20/40.

C. CLASS 3: INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE EITHER NOT OPTICALLY READY AND/OR NOT VISUALLY READY:

1. NOT OPTICALLY READY - SOLDIERS WHOSE CORRECTED BINOCULAR VISUAL ACUITY IS BETTER THAN OR EQUAL TO 20/40, BUT WHO DO NOT POSSESS ALL REQUIRED OPTICAL DEVICES. OPTICAL DEVICES ARE REQUIRED.

2. NOT VISUALLY READY - SOLDIERS WHOSE UNAIDED OR CORRECTED BINOCULAR VISUAL ACUITY IS WORSE THAN 20/40. THEY DO NOT MEET VISUAL ACUITY STANDARDS. COMPREHENSIVE EYE EXAMINATION AND OPTICAL DEVICES ARE REQUIRED.

D. CLASS 4 - INDIVIDUALS WHO REQUIRE A VISION SCREENING. THIS INCLUDES SOLDIERS WHOSE LAST VISION SCREENING OR EYE EXAM IS GREATER THAN ONE YEAR OLD AND SOLDIERS WHOSE VISION READINESS CLASSIFICATION IS UNKNOWN.

3. SOLDIERS IN CLASS 1 AND CLASS 2 WILL BE CONSIDERED FULLY DEPLOYABLE. SOLDIERS IN CLASS 3 OR CLASS 4 ARE NOT DEPLOYABLE.



SOLDIERS IN CLASS 3 OR 4 AT THE TIME OF SCREENING WILL IMMEDIATELY BE RECLASSIFIED AFTER OBTAINING CORRECTIVE VISION/OPTICAL SERVICES.

4. SOLDIERS ARE TO BE SCREENED DURING ANNUAL SOLDIER READINESS PROCESSING (SRP) OR ANY OTHER VISION SCREENING ENCOUNTER USING STANDARDIZED SCREENING METHODS. SOLDIERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO READ A STANDARD EYE CHART WITH BOTH EYES OPEN, WEARING THEIR BEST CORRECTION. THE SCREENING WILL ALSO CONSIST OF A "SHOW ME" INSPECTION OF ALL REQUIRED OPTICAL DEVICES.

5. VISION READINESS CLASSIFICATION DATA WILL BE ENTERED ON DA FORM 7425, "READINESS AND DEPLOYMENT CHECKLIST" IAW DA PAM 600-8-101, AND INTO THE MEDICAL PROTECTION SYSTEM (MEDPROS). MEDPROS CURRENTLY PROVIDES THE STATUS OF ALL MEDICAL READINESS REQUIREMENTS MANDATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY. MEDPROS REPORTS WILL PROVIDE COMMANDERS WITH THE VISION READINESS STATUS OF THEIR UNIT BOTH BY INDIVIDUAL AND IN THE AGGREGATE.

6. POINTS OF CONTACT FOR THIS INFORMATION ARE AS FOLLOWS;

A. COL MICHEAL S. KAMINSKI, OPTOMETRY STAFF OFFICER, OTSG, DSN 761-3152, OR CML (703) 681-3152, EMAIL:

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B. MAJ DEAN S. BANCROFT, PROGRAM MANAGER TRI-SERVICE VISION CONSERVATION AND READINESS, CHPPM, DSN 584-1005, OR CML (410) 436-1005, EMAIL: [DEAN.BANCROFT@APG.AMEDD.ARMY.MIL](mailto:DEAN.BANCROFT@APG.AMEDD.ARMY.MIL).